CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN 2016

Connecticut's Children at a Glance¹

State Population ²	3,596,677	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 ⁵	14.9%
Population, Children Under 18 ³	774,876	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 ⁶	13.7%
State Poverty Rate ⁴	10.8%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 ⁷	16.8%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, Connecticut had 39,113 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 19,966 reports were referred for investigation.⁸
- In 2014, there were 7,651 victims of abuse or neglect in Connecticut, a rate of 9.9 per 1,000 children, increasing 5% from 2013. Of these children, 82.3% were neglected, 6.1% were physically abused, and 5.3% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has decreased 23.1% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010. 10
- In 2014, there were 13 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Connecticut. 11
- 4,069 children in Connecticut lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 4,456 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 1,271 aged 5 or younger, and 1,419 were 16 or older.¹²
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 8.7% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2010.¹³
- In 2013, of children in out-of-home care in Connecticut, 33% were white, 27% were black, 33% were Hispanic, less than 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, less than 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 7% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity. 14

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,558 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in Connecticut, 42% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.¹⁵
- 502 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Connecticut in 2014, increasing 2.4% from 490 in 2013.¹⁶
- Of the 4,069 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 1,227 or 30.2% waiting to be adopted. 17
- In 2014, approximately 19,702 grandparents in Connecticut had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. ¹⁸



• 995 of the children in out-of-home care in 2013 were living with relatives while in care. 19

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Connecticut decreased from 28,806 in 2014 to 26,648 in 2015, a 7.5% change. 13,323 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 7.9% from 2014.²⁰
- From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in Connecticut, 32 received TANF benefits. ²¹
- \$470,463,547 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in Connecticut, including 18% on basic assistance, 1% on child care, 0% on transportation, and 81% on nonassistance. ²²
- \$29,152,092 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Connecticut, serving 52,561 participants.²³
- In 2014, Connecticut distributed \$239,004,703 in child support funds, decreasing 1.4% from 2013.²⁴
- 300,000 children in Connecticut lived in households with a high housing burden in 2013, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.²⁵
- In 2014, the unemployment rate in Connecticut was 6.6%.²⁶
- 13.9% of households in Connecticut were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year. ²⁷

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2014, Connecticut had a monthly average of 8,800 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 9,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 9,600 were recepients in 2012.²⁸
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Connecticut, a family of three could make no more than \$43,770 at application, which is equivalent to 50% of the state's median income.²⁹
- As of early 2015, Connecticut had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.³⁰
- In 2014, Head Start served 6,701 children in Connecticut, decreasing 0.42% from 2013.³¹

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 332,699 children in Connecticut were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, increasing 2.2% from 2013.³²
- In 2014, Connecticut had 19,927 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, increasing 4.9% from 2013, when 18,999 children were enrolled.³³



- In 2014, Connecticut had 28,870 uninsured children.³⁴
- 2,763 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Connecticut in 2014.³⁵
- 169 infants under age 1 died in Connecticut in 2013.36
- In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Connecticut was 5.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 19.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 11.5 births for girls ages 15 to 19.³⁷
- Cumulative through 2014, there were 16,944 adults and adolescents and 189 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Connecticut.³⁸
- In 2014, an estimated 13,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 244,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Connecticut.³⁹
- In 2014, approximately 8,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴⁰
- In 2014, approximately 9,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past vear.⁴¹

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- 95 children in Connecticut aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.42
- 86% of high school students in Connecticut graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 10,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Connecticut were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.
- 42,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2013.⁴⁵
- 47% of young adults in Connecticut ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013. 46
- In 2014, there were less than 10 reports of children in Connecticut aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 15 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.⁴⁷

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 13 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Connecticut in 2014, compared to 10 in 2013.⁴⁸
- 9,431 children younger than 18 were arrested in Connecticut in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 515 of the arrests in 2014.⁴⁹



• 279 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Connecticut in 2013.⁵⁰

CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE⁵¹

- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.⁵²
- According to a 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these
 high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA
 recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.⁵⁴ Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.⁵⁵
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care. ⁵⁶
- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.⁵⁷
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree. 58
- A workload model in Colorado found that approximately 574 additional caseworkers were needed in their state to
 adequately provide child welfare services, due to estimated time requirements for meaningful services. This number
 represents a 49% increase that is needed on top of hours already spent on case related tasks.⁵⁹

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR CONNECTICUT'S CHILDREN

- In 2012, Connecticut spent \$601,733,040 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$264,717,517 was from federal funds, \$337,015,523 from state funds, and \$0 from local funds.⁶⁰
- In 2012, of the \$264,717,517 in federal funds received for child welfare, 32.1% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 1.4% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 5.5% was from Medicaid, 1.2% came from Social Services Block Grant, 56.1% was from TANF, and 3.7% came from other federal sources.⁶¹
- Connecticut received \$46,358,080 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$20,416,137 for maintenance payments and \$25,941,943 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.⁶²

² U.S. Census Bureau (2016). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.



¹ "At A Glance" statistics are from 2014.

³ Ibid.

- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau (2016). Selected Economic Characteristics, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Ibid
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals*, 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.
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- Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.
- ¹⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2010-2014.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf.
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 Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.
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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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- Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).
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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

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